

In Memoriam

of

Past Master

Dr. Samuel J. Dickey,

delivered before

Mozart Lodge, No. 436,

F. & A. M.,

January 9th, 1894,

by

Philip J. Umstead, P. M.

In Memoriam.

Dr. Samuel J. Dickey.

Past Master of Mozart Lodge, No. 436, F. & A. M.

BRETHREN OF MOZART LODGE :

THE shadows have fallen upon our Lodge during the past three months. Five of our beloved members have been called from their spheres of usefulness and activity in this life to their long home. They have been called by the Grand Master of the Universe to the Grand Lodge above. They have been called to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." Since our last meeting in December, three of our most active members have crossed the river, and are at rest, and the last to receive his summons was our distinguished Representative to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Bro. Samuel J. Dickey, Past Master of this Lodge.

This is the first time in the history of this Lodge for a quarter of a century, that so many of its members have been called away in such a short space of time, and to-night, brethren, a feeling of sadness and sorrow comes o'er us as we contemplate our loss, but,

“ Let us be patient, these severe afflictions,
Not from the ground arise ;
But oftentimes celestial benedictions
Assume this dark disguise.

We see but dimly through the mists and vapors,
Amid these earthly damps,
What seem to us but sad funeral tapers,
May be Heaven’s distant lamps.”

Bro. Samuel J. Dickey was one of the most distinguished Masons in Pennsylvania, and for almost twenty years his familiar form has been a land-mark at the Masonic Temple.

His active work, genial disposition and warm friendship secured for him the respect, admiration and love of his Masonic brethren. And as we gather here to mourn our loss, let us remember that while our Lodge has lost one of its brightest lights, yet our loss is his gain, for he has exchanged the cares and sorrows of this life for the happiness and joy of a future world. Let those of us who are left cherish the influence of the bright example he has left us in Freemasonry.

Dr. Samuel J. Dickey, was born in Philadelphia, 1820, of Quaker parentage. He studied dentistry and for a long time enjoyed the patronage of the wealthiest families in the city. The doctor was never married, but lived with his two sisters, one of whom died a year ago, and the other one just a week before the Doctor.

Bro. Dickey was made a Mason in Mozart Lodge, No. 436, May 18th, 1869, at a special meeting ; passed, Sept. 7th, 1869 ; raised, Dec. 19th, 1869 ; passed chair, Oct. 28th, 1870. He served as

Junior Warden in 1880, as Senior Warden in 1881, and as Worshipful Master in 1882, and he was the Representative to the Grand Lodge from December 27th, 1882, to the time of his death.

He received the Mark Master Mason's degree in Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216, and served as its Worshipful Master during 1892. He received the Most Excellent Master Mason's degree in Oriental Chapter, No. 183, on March 16th, 1871, and was exalted to the Royal Arch degree on April 26th, 1871. He served as Scribe of the Chapter during 1880, as King in 1881, and as High Priest during 1882.

He received the Cryptic degrees in Philadelphia Council, No. 11, and was a past officer in that body.

He was knighted in Kadosh Commandery, No. 29, K. T., on June 6th, 1871, and served as Captain-General in 1883 and 1884, as Generalissimo in 1884 and 1885, and as Eminent Commander during 1885 and 1886, and upon his retirement as Eminent Commander he served as Prelate until his death.

He received all the degrees in Philadelphia Consistory in 1877, and was a P. M. E. S. P. G. M. of De Joinville Council, Princes of Jerusalem.

On Sept. 23, 1884, the 33^o was conferred upon him at the session of the Supreme Council held at Detroit, Michigan.

He was a member and Past Officer of Philadelphia Conclave, No. 8, Red Cross of Constantine, and was its Treasurer at the time of his death. He was also a Past Grand Officer of the Grand Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine. He was a life member and a manager of the Masonic Home.

He was the first Representative from Mozart Lodge at the organization of the Home, and he took a deep interest in its welfare ever since it was organized.

His familiar face could always be seen at the Home on Sundays, and he contributed largely of his means for its support.

He was also a life member in the Art Association of the Masonic Temple, to which he was warmly attached. He was also an active member of the Union League for many years.

He died January 4th, 1894, aged 74 years, and was laid to rest with Masonic honors, in Laurel Hill Cemetery on January 8th, 1894.

The funeral services were peculiarly solemn and impressive, rendered doubly so by the beautiful and pathetic selections of the Mozart Quartet, entitled "Lead Kindly Light," and "How Dark the Road We Go."

His mortal remains were accompanied to their last resting place by his relatives, friends, and a large circle of his Masonic brethren.

It is with pride that we point to this brilliant record of an illustrious Mason. It is a noble example worthy of our emulation.

It was our pleasure to have known Bro. Dickey intimately ever since we first saw Masonic light, and a more thoroughly, conscientious, and devoted man to the principles of Freemasonry we have never known.

He was always the same warm, genial and sympathetic friend and counselor. He was always ready to dispense Masonic light and knowledge

to his uninformed brethren whenever it was needed.

Mozart Lodge has lost her able Representative to the Grand Lodge, a Past Master devoted to his Lodge, a brave and liberal man, and a distinguished Mason.

We sometimes wonder why our brightest jewels are taken, but we are reminded that God's ways are not ours ; for

“ We ask of God the sunniest way,
He answers with a sorrow ;
We sink beneath the Cross to-day,
And wear the Crown to-morrow.”

Bro. Dickey was one of Nature's noblemen. “He was such a man, take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.” The influence of his noble example, and his character as a man will be long felt by his brethren in Freemasonry.

It will need no lofty monument to perpetuate his memory, for the grand and noble character he has left, will be more enduring than the stately shaft of granite or marble. His years of devotion to the Masonic Fraternity will bear their rich harvest.

“Why mourn ye that our friend is dead,
Ye are not sad to see the gathered grain,
Nor when the mellowed fruits the orchards cast,
Nor when the yellow woods shake down the ripened mast ;
Ye sigh not when the sun his course fulfilled,
His glowing course rejoicing earth and sky ;
In the soft evening, when the winds are stilled,
Sinks where his Islands of refreshment lie ;
And leaves the smile of his departure spread,
O'er the warm colored Heaven and ruddy mountain-head.”

It is eminently proper on occasions like this, when such a brother passes away from our midst, that those who knew him well, and fully appreciated his distinguished abilities and noble and generous qualities, should leave some record of their appreciation of his services.

I therefore submit the following resolutions for the consideration of the Lodge :

Whereas, An all-wise Providence has seen fit in His wisdom to remove from our midst Doctor Samuel J. Dickey, Past Master of Mozart Lodge, No. 436. Therefore be it


Resolved, That in the death of Past Master Dickey, this Lodge has lost its distinguished Representative to the Grand Lodge, and an active member, and one whose conspicuous ability, untiring energy, and devoted labors, have contributed largely towards its success.

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the death of one whose noble qualities and genial disposition endeared him to his brethren, not only in his own Lodge, but wherever he was known among Masons ; and while we bow in humble submission to the Divine Will, and our hearts sorrow for the loss of so valuable a member of our Lodge, yet we feel that the promise, "Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a Crown of Life," has been verified to him.

Resolved, That we tender our deepest sympathy to the bereaved sister of our departed brother, and while she mourns the loss of a loved one, may she feel that his spirit has gone to the regions of life and light eternal.

Resolved, That a page be set apart in the minutes of our Lodge, and that these resolutions be engrossed upon it, and that a copy be sent to the family of our departed brother.





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